This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 2, 2008. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 to 17, 21 and 27 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 7, 11 and 13 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 15, 21, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Claims 15, 21 and 27 have been amended to clarify that "the plurality of setting screens" referenced the User Interface (UI) having tabs as shown in Fig 6. In the figure, the UI is shown as including a basic setting tab, a page setting tab, a stamp/background tab and a special effect tab. Accordingly, the term "the entire setting screen has a plurality of setting screens" has been amended to read "the entire setting screen has a plurality of tabs." Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 15, 21, 25, 27 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Office Action alleged that it is unclear whether the limitation of "a designation" in Claims 15, 21, and 27 is the same "designation" recited in independent Claims 1, 7, and 13. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended to remove the term "designation." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 25 and 31 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because the limitation of "the printer driver" in Claims 25 and 31 allegedly lacked antecedent basis. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Claims 25 and 31 have been canceled

without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 7,159,190 (Perry). Claims 15, 21 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Perry in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,724,492 (Iwase). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns setting printer settings by a printer control apparatus using an entire setting screen to set an entire print attribute to be applied to the entire print data and a partial setting screen to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the print data, wherein the partial setting screen is a screen in which the entire print attribute is reflected. In one aspect of the invention, the entire setting screen has a first designation field to designate a type of sheet is included in the entire setting screen and at least the type of sheet designated in the first field is included in the partial setting screen.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a printing control method executed in an information processing apparatus which has a printer driver to generate print data which a printing apparatus can process. The printing control method includes a first displaying step of displaying an entire setting screen to set an entire print attribute to be applied to the entire print data, wherein at least a first designation field to designate a type of sheet is included in the entire setting screen; a second displaying step of displaying a partial setting screen to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the print data, wherein at least the type of sheet designated in the first field is included in the partial setting screen; and a generating step of generating the print data to print a print material in which the entire print attribute and the partial print attribute are reflected. The partial setting screen has a second

designation field to designate a page as the part of the print data to which the partial print attribute to be applied, and the entire setting screen does not have the designation field.

Applicant submits that Perry neither discloses nor suggests all of the features of the present invention. Specifically, Perry fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of a first displaying step of displaying an entire setting screen to set an entire print attribute to be applied to the entire print data, wherein at least a first designation field to designate a type of sheet is included in the entire setting screen, and a second displaying step of displaying a partial setting screen to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the print data, wherein at least the type of sheet designated in the first field is included in the partial setting screen, wherein the partial setting screen has a second designation field to designate a page as the part of the print data to which the partial print attribute to be applied, and the entire setting screen does not have the designation field.

In contrast to the present invention, Perry discloses a printer system that can be used for displaying and printing. The system displays "Exception Pages Properties" (as seen in Figs. 6A to 6D) for setting print properties over a designated page range different from job level properties. This display is available when a user clicks the "Exception Pages" button 330 as shown in Fig. 5. However, Perry fails to disclose an entire setting screen to set an entire print attribute to be applied to entire the print data wherein the entire setting screen contains at least a first designation field to designate a type of sheet. In Perry, UI screen shown in Fig. 5 does not include at least a first designation field to designate a type of sheet although the UI does contain selections "Exception Page" 330, "Covers" 410 and the like. Accordingly, the entire setting screen of Claim 1 differs from the UI screen shown in Fig. 5 of Perry.

In addition, Perry fails to disclose or suggest displaying a partial setting screen to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the print data, wherein at least the type of sheet designated in the first field is included in the partial setting screen. This feature allows a user to confirm the type of sheet set as the entire setting even when the user is setting a partial setting via the partial setting screen. Instead of disclosing such a feature, Perry discloses UI screens Figs. 6A to 6D that allow a user to set print job exception attributes. Perry sates "(b)ecause the exceptions page windows 310 only displays the print job exceptions attributes that are different from the print job level properties programmed at the print job level, all of the print job exceptions attributes for a particular print job can be displayed on the exceptions page window 310 without the need for a user to horizontally scroll within the window to display additional attributes." (See Perry, column 7, lines 52 to 58.)

In light of the deficiencies of Perry as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claims 7, 11 and 13 are directed to an apparatus, a system and a computer-readable storage medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 7, 11 and 13 are also in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Frank Cire #42,419/
Frank L. Cire
Attorney for Applicant

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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